MAXIM

NEW ZEALAND
APRIL 2025 ISSUE 74

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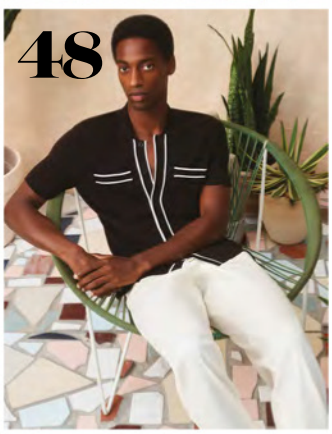

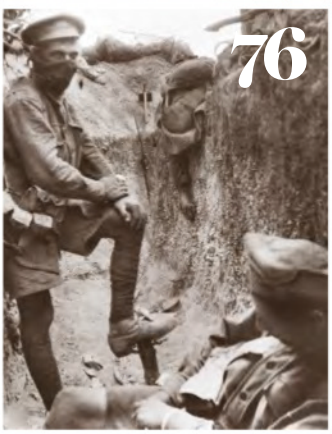

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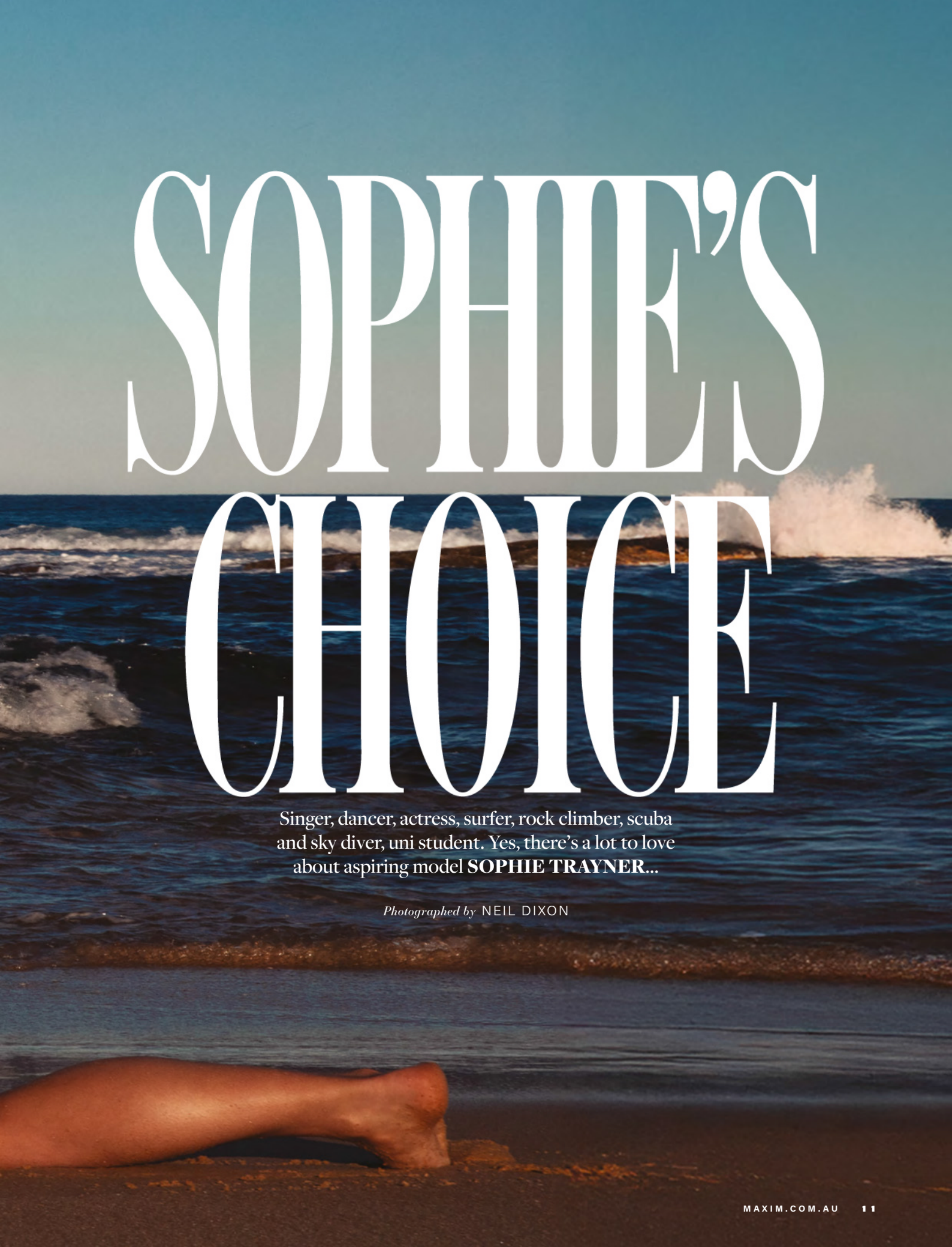

SOPHIE'S CHOICE

Singer, dancer, actress, surfer, rock climber, scuba and sky diver, uni student. Yes, there's a lot to love about aspiring model **SOPHIE TRAYNER**...

Photographed by NEIL DIXON

Hello Sophie, tell us about yourself and brief life story so far.
For the first few years of my schooling life I lived in far North Queensland in a small rural town where I got heavily into netball, swimming and most importantly musical theatre. For my high school years my family and I moved to Townsville where I continued my passion for theatre and sports while trying to stay diligent to my study. After graduating I gained the opportunity to go to Newcastle University to study Diagnostic Radiography, all the while still playing sport and discovering new things like scuba diving, rock climbing, surfing, sky diving and working two seasons, in my uni break, at the snow and learning how to ski.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I spend most of my time, when I'm not studying, either working or travelling, having made some of my dreams come true by visiting places such as Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines. My next trip is to Sri Lanka where I'm planning on honing my surfing skills whilst trying to learn about their history and culture along the way. My down time is spent catching up with friends, going for dinner or drinks or just chilling out on the beach.

What would people be most surprised to know about you?
One of the dearest things to me is a little stuffed bear that was gifted to me by my grandmother when I was born. It goes everywhere with me.

What is your best asset?
I'd say my best asset would be my curious mind and adventurous nature.

Well, you look stunning. When do you feel sexy?
Thank you. Being in nature and around the sea makes me feel empowered and free – and it allows me to embrace all that it means to be a woman.

How long have you been modelling?
I've been on or around the stage acting, singing and dancing since I was about four and have dabbled a little in modelling, but nothing too major. My main priority has always been to finish my degree, which is only a few months away. I've had a few offers of work and I'm pretty excited as to what the future holds.

What would be your dream job?
Being able to travel and discover new places whilst getting paid seems like a pretty great gig. Now I just have to manifest my dreams to reality.

Would you ever date one of your social media followers?
I would never say never, as long as we had the time to get to know each other and form an honest friendship first.

What do you look for in a man?
He would have to be kind, have a great sense of adventure and above all a good sense of humour.

How can a man win his way to your heart?
He'd have to be a real softy and super supporting of a strong woman but most of all have a great wit and intelligence. Romance and flowers always help, too.

Describe your ideal date.
A day on the water

*"I'd say my best asset would be my **curious** mind and **adventurous** nature."*

scuba diving, sailing or perhaps a great ski day topped off with a nice dinner somewhere quiet. Or else a sporadic picnic with a homecooked curry overlooking the beach whilst watching the sun go down sounds pretty idyllic.

What have you learnt about men over the years?
Every man is their own person and should be respected for their own story, but as life goes on, I realise what works well in my life and what doesn't.

What's one thing men should always know about women?
Respect.

What's next for you? Any exciting projects on the horizon you can share with us?
Uni is ramping up for the year, but more importantly I've been in talks with some brands and other designers about future work, so I'm pretty keen to keep this momentum going. Watch this space! ■

*"Every man is their own person and should be **respected** for their own story."*

STATUS UPDATE

NAME:
Sophie Trayner

BORN:
October 16

HOMETOWN:
Townsville Qld

CURRENTLY LIVES:
Newcastle NSW

FIVE WORD SELF-DESCRIPTION:
"Adventurous, tenacious, kind, humorous, bubbly."

LIFE MOTTO:
"Work hard, play hard."

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AGENT:
Façon Models

Art on Wheels

Celebrating 50 years of BMW's iconic Art Car series...

By REILLY SULLIVAN

BMW Art Car Collection,
BMW Museum *Photo: Enes Kucevic*

"We're not just talking the talk, but we're walking the walk. And I want to keep it that way."

BMW Art Car, Jenny Holzer, BMW Group, Global Partner, Bavarian State Opera © BMW AG

This page (clockwise from top left): BMW M2 by Futura (2020); BMW x Art Basel in Basel (2023) - The Electric AI Canvas - an installation inspired by the new BMW i5. Featuring Bin Woo Hyuk. *© BMW AG;* BMW x Art Basel Miami Beach (2023) - AI video installation REMEMBR by Alex Israel, inspired by the all-electric BMW i7. *Photo: Kevin Arrieta © BMW AG*

Few car brands can rival BMW's cultural cachet thanks to its iconic Art Car series. For more than 50 years, the German auto giant has sporadically tapped world famous artists to transform a real-life BMW vehicle into a one-off art piece. Artists who have taken part in the initiative read like a who's who of the mid-20th century to early 21st century art world and include Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Frank Stella and Robert Rauschenberg as well as contemporary artists like David Hockney, Jeff Koons and Jenny Holzer.

The most recent addition to the club was New York-based contemporary artist Julie Mehretu, who unveiled her take on the BMW M Hybrid V8 racecar (number 20) last year. Remarkably, out of just 20 artists in this elite club, two of the Art Cars were designed by Australian artists. The first was Indigenous artist Michael Jagamara in 1989, closely followed by Ken Done later the same year. Thirty-six years later, Done's car is back in the spotlight as BMW celebrated Ken's contributions to the art world in his hometown. The setting was none other than the Ken Done gallery in Sydney's the rocks, where MAXIM was invited to hear from the master himself as he relived the experience of creating his Art Car (officially number eight in the series) back in 1989.

Done's car, a deliciously '80s BMW M3 complete with an abstract portrayal of parrots and parrot fish, is a cult favourite among Art Car aficionados. The car itself already had an eventful life before becoming an art piece and took to the road in 1987 with the JPS-BMW Team, carrying Jim Richards to victory in the Australian Group A Driver's Championship.

The M3 only participated in one race in 1988, after which it was withdrawn from competition racing and earmarked for its ultimate destiny as a work of art. More than three decades later, this iconic M3 will join the other Art Cars on a globe-spanning tour by BMW set to kick off this month and visit 27 countries. Here, we sit down with Dr Thomas Girst, Global Head of Cultural Engagement at the BMW group, to talk all things Art Cars.

Hey, Thomas, how does it feel to sit down and chat to Ken Done and revisit such an iconic chapter of the BMW Art Car series?
It's almost unreal because I've been in charge of the Art Cars since I started working for BMW in 2003. So, I know Ken Done from books and his contribution to the Art Cars and when I was told there was a chance I could meet him at his gallery and speak with him, I thought it amazing because the Art Cars live and breathe through their creators. To get as much of a sense of what they were thinking when they were creating this car, is invaluable to my work.

It's crazy that out of the 20 BMW Art Cars in the world, two are from Australian artists. I mean, we're a small country...
Right. I'm going to India next week, and at the Delhi art fair, I know I will be asked again and again, "Thomas, why isn't there an Indian artist in the Art Car series?" It's a country of 1.4 billion people. I cannot answer that question, because now, of course, the Art Cars are being chosen by an international jury of museum directors. But I take pride in the fact

Digital Art Mode "Quantum Garden" by multimedia artist Cao Fei.
© BMW AG

BMW Open Work by Frieze (2022) - Nikita Gale.
Photo: Robert Low © BMW AG

BMW Art Car
- Jeff Koons
© www.bitmap.no

BMW x Cannes Film Festival (2023) - BMW i7 M70. *(c) BMW AG*

that there is this contribution from Australia, that somehow, in the '80s, the Art Car series branched out and included great artists like Michael Jagamara and Ken Done.

In the '80s when Ken's car was commissioned, luxury brands partnering with artists was a pretty new concept. Did BMW pioneer this trend?

I think that's true. Today I see a lot of luxury and tech brands moving into the field of arts and culture, but I also see a lot of crap that doesn't do artists or the brand a favour. It is just like hopping from event to event instead of entering meaningful relationships with artists and I think that is what we stand for. We consider ourselves a leader in the fields of art and culture precisely because we have a history, a trajectory, a heritage that shows time and again – we're not just talking the talk, but we're walking the walk. And I want to keep it that way.

BMW Art Car - Alexander Calder
Photo: Enes Kucevic

BMW Art Car - Julie Mehretu.
Photo: Tereza Mundilová

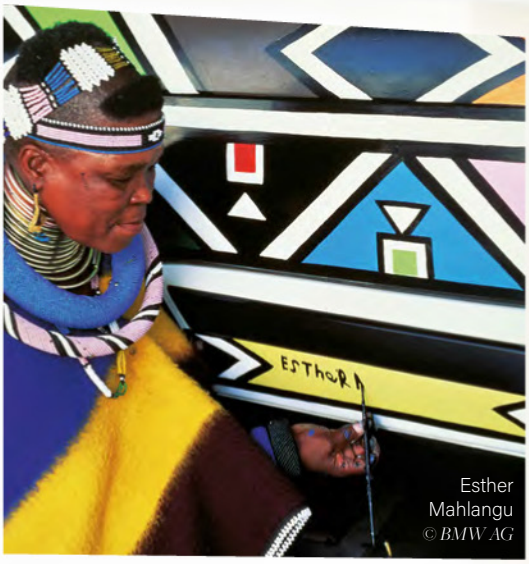
Each Art Car is an organic collaboration between BMW and the artist. How important is it to protect the artistic integrity of the Art Car series?
I'm sometimes asked by Regional Marketing heads to turn out Art Cars every time a model is being introduced in any country, but I don't want Art Cars to be used in an inflationary way. I look at the BMW Art Cars as a sub brand and as Goodwill Ambassadors, in the field of arts and cultures for the brand BMW. So, the depth of the collaboration is important. When Jeff Koons talks about him being part of the BMW family, I really appreciate it a lot because it's how I feel as well. Julie Mehretu is probably the most sought after and renowned artist at the moment and her work resonates and matters and stands the test of time. Yeah, Julie does not need to do a BMW Art Car for any sort of reason, but she did, and I'm just totally proud of it – she loved to work with our engineers and designers. It's about the world that we can also offer that is opening up to artists that are sometimes very interested in not showing in the confines of the museum or a canvas.

Do you think the prospect of being in such an elite club with Andy Warhol and Ken Done sweetens the deal for artists?
We curate this so well that there's only 20 artists in 50 years. We are a car company, if you want to talk about hits and misses within that series, no museum, no curator could have done better in half a century than those artists, right? It's insane how important they all are. Esther Mahlangu, now is her big moment at 89 years old. She still has a small gallery in South Africa representing her. I feel like this is amazing and we were there very early in her career. So, these things play out in

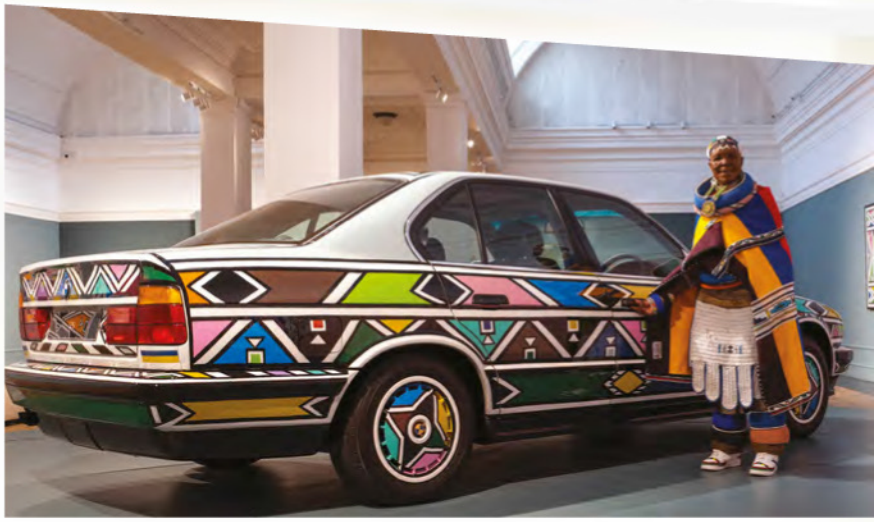
a leader in the fields

and culture precisely because we have a trajectory, a heritage."

BMW Art Car - Julie Mehretu.
Photo: Andreas Hempel © BMW AG



Esther Mahlangu © BMW AG



Opening of the first Retrospective of Esther Mahlangu - Iziko South African National Gallery (2024). *Photo:Clint Strydom © Esther Mahlangu and BMW AG*

time, and these are the things that make me really proud when I look at the BMW Art Cars.

You travel the world for BMW, is there a fan favourite Art Car?
The home of the BMW Art Cars is the BMW Museum in Munich. They're there but not all of them can be displayed at the same time. So, requests are coming in now with the BMW Art Car World Tour kicking off in March. So, if you look at the requests that are coming in, there's some Art Cars out of these 20 that are not requested as often. That doesn't mean they're not as dear to me, or they wouldn't be favourites with others. But of course, let's say it's the big five, as they say when you go on a safari, like the big Art Car, the big pop art artists at the very beginning, I think, are essential for the entire series. Then there's those cars that have actually raced in a race. Now, unlike with Ken Done's car, the cars are racing as Art Cars like Julie Mehretu, Jeff Koons, John Baldessari, Cao Fei and Jenny Holzer did.

Do you have a personal favourite?
I have three children, and if I was asked, "Who do you love the most?" I couldn't say. So, I would always go with Alexander Calder's, because it's the very first one. It's the nucleus, and it's these basic colours, right? The blue, red and yellow, and out of which all of these other cars emerged. But Cao Fei took this onto a whole different level, where it's no longer about wielding a brush, but about involving AR, an app, virtual reality and AI – all of this comes into play already with her card from 2017. Just now, the impact of Julie Mehretu's car is still resonating with me, the way that she took on this project and came up with this insanely fierce car that I think unleashes something that her canvas can't and that is so incredible to witness. ■

BMW i5 Flow NOSTOKANA 2024 (left) - Tribute to BMW Art Car by Esther Mahlangu (right) © BMW AG

POWER UP!

MAXIM fitness guru ALEXA TOWERSEY shows you how to look, feel and be built for battle...

We all know someone who can lift the entire weights room but can't seem to get out of their own way. We also know someone who is lightning fast, yet a slight breeze could knock them over. But what is far less common is the annoying but devastatingly dominant mofo who possesses that rare combination of both strength and speed. And that is POWER by definition — equal parts strength and speed. In geek talk this equates to work/time. In Laymen's terms, it's simply the ability to move heavy loads quickly.

The problem when training to be all powerful is that it often comes with a higher risk of injury — think Olympic Lifting gone bad. And whether you're a weekend warrior or a seasoned athlete, injury is the enemy. Enter CONTRAST TRAINING — possibly the most simple and effective yet safest way to develop power.

Contrast training is exactly as its name suggests. You're essentially pairing a heavy lift with an explosive movement that mimics the mechanics of the heavy lift. Think squats followed by jump squats. Bench presses followed by explosive push-ups. Pull-ups followed by medicine-ball slams. Training in this manner produces a phenomenon known as "post activation potentiation" (PAP). This just means that the explosive capability of a muscle is enhanced after it's been forced to perform maximal or near-maximal contractions.

GETTING PAPPED

Yuri Verkhoshansky, a Russian sports scientist, would describe PAP by asking you to imagine what would happen if you lifted a half-full can of water when you thought the can was full. There'd be a mismatch between your perception of the force needed to move the can, and the actual force required. The can would move twice as fast as you intended, and you can only hope someone else will clean up the mess you made.

With athletes, contrast training builds strength and power simultaneously. When you perform an explosive movement immediately after an exercise that requires all-out strength, you are teaching your body to recruit more motor units for tasks like jumping, sprinting or throwing a punch. And show me an athlete who doesn't want to run faster, jump higher or hit harder.

For non-athletes, it's a great way to tap into high-threshold motor units to build more muscle and get jacked AF, or to boost the metabolism to become a lean, mean fighting machine. And while you're accomplishing those objectives, you're also changing up your workout in a way that's fun and challenging.

THE HOW TO OF CONTRAST TRAINING

- For each contrast set, the weight should be around 85-90% of your 1RM so that the lifter performs 1-3 reps of the heavy lift followed by 3-5 reps of the high-velocity movement.
- You should add a 30-second rest interval between the heavy lift set and the explosive movement. This gives the involved muscles time to recover, while still allowing the lifter to take advantage of PAP from the heavy lift.
- The addition of a further 15-second rest after each rep of the explosive movement will allow for maximum velocity on each rep. After finishing your explosive reps, rest for 3 minutes before the next set.
- Since it's unwise to start off by throwing 90% of your 1RM around, include 3-5 warm-up sets before piling the weight on. However, to avoid muscle fatigue before the work sets, only do enough warm-up reps to get your blood flowing.

TOP TIP

Mobility exercises between sets help support optimal alignment, preventing injuries and increasing the effectiveness of the strength-power couplets. I suggest including a calf stretch for 15 secs each side in between your squat based sets, a hip flexor stretch with your deadlifts and a set of prone YTW's with your upper body push/pull.

THE FUNDAMENTAL EXERCISES

With a little creativity, you can use contrast training for any movement pattern or muscle group, but for the most part, here are the six basic multi-joint examples...

Lower Body Knee Dominant
Strength Exercise: Barbell Squat (front or back)
Contrast Exercise: Box Jump or Squat Jump

Lower Body Hip Dominant
Strength Exercise: Deadlift
Contrast Exercise: Broad Jump or Banded Kettlebell Swing

Upper Body Push
Strength Exercise: Bench Press
Contrast Exercise: Medicine Ball Chest Pass or Plyometric Pushup

Upper Body Pull
Strength Exercise: Pullup
Contrast Exercise: Medicine Ball Slam

Torso Rotation
Strength Exercise: Band or Cable Rotation
Contrast Exercise: Medicine Ball Rotary Toss or explosive band/cable rotation

Locomotion
Strength Exercise: Heavy Sled Push/ Drag Contrast Exercise: 20-25m Sprint

TOP TIP

The key to making contrast training work for you is to create a genuine contrast between the two exercises you're doing for each movement pattern. You want to use enough weight on the strength exercise to develop strength, and you want to perform the second exercise with as much explosive power as you can. Each rep of each set should be performed with purpose.

ABOUT ALEXA

"Action Alexa" is an internationally published celebrity trainer, sports model and nutrition and lifestyle coach with over 15 years' experience in the health and fitness industry, and has worked with NZ's world champion rugby team, the All Blacks. She has qualified for the Ironman 70.3 World Champs and was named as one of the Five Toughest Trainers in Asia during her seven-year stint in an MMA gym in Hong Kong.

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SUNSET & SECRETS

From Dubai sunsets to building a wellness empire, she's a blend of glamour and grounded grit. Get ready for a candid chat with **MARIA SLUŠNYTĖ**

Photography by MARIE BÄRSCH (@MARIEB.PHOTOGRAPHY)

Tell us a bit about your shoot – where, when, the idea behind it, etc.
This shoot happened in Dubai, on the beautiful Kite Surf beach. Me and the photographer decided to take sunset pictures and the result was wonderful. The idea was to take beachy, sexy and feminine images. And the result was exactly that.

Give us a little more background about yourself and your life story so far.
When I was still quite young, I won a beauty title called Miss Europe 2017. It changed my life in many ways and opened many doors. After the crown duties, I went to London to study. I studied medical aesthetics and right away started to practice. It was a great experience and I loved it, but I was missing my home and family, so I decided to move back and start to build life in Lithuania. Now I am working on my wellness brand and planning to live here for another year.

What do you love most about yourself?
I love my life and my soul. I do have a lot of compassion for others and I like to help if I can.

Ever been to NZ? If so, what was your favourite part? If not... why not?!
I have never been to New Zealand, but I would love to visit one day. The nature looks phenomenal over there. Also the people, culture and food sounds fascinating to me.

What is the first things you do when you get up in the morning?
Mostly before I start my day I say a little gratitude and then have my tea or coffee.

What is one of your weird quirks?
Playing with my hair too much while I'm thinking.

*"The intellectual person is super **attractive** to me."*

How would you describe yourself in five words?
Loving, caring, disciplined, organised, wise.

What's the first thing you notice when it comes to the opposite gender? Physically and otherwise
Apart from physical appearance, mostly I notice if the person is not overweight and has a charm.

What do you think is the most attractive quality in a man?
Most important is the brains. The intellectual person is super attractive to me

What impresses you on a first date?
Good conversation. The connection. Of course, also how much effort the man puts into the date.

What advice would you give a man?
Depends on the man, of course, but this one is good for everyone: Work harder on yourself than on your job.

Describe your ideal boyfriend in one sentence.
They say opposites attract, but for me I would like man as similar as possible to me. Kind, caring, loving, disciplined and passionate.

What's your guilty pleasure?
Ice cream.

What words do you live by?
No one will come to save you and give it to you. If you want something you have to work and get it yourself.

What is something new happening in your life right now?
Right now I'm currently working on creating my active wear brand called Good Spirit, made only from natural materials. In Europe it's pretty hard to find fitness clothing brands which are not from polyester.

Lastly, what is one major thing you want to accomplish by the end of this year?
I would say launch my brand fully and have a great team together.

"Mostly before I start my day I say a little ***gratitude****."*

*"No one will come to save you and give it to you. If you want something you have to **work and get it** yourself."*

"I love my life and my soul."

STATUS UPDATE

MODEL'S FULL NAME:
Maria Slusnyte

HOMETOWN:
Kaunas Lithuania

BORN:
19th October 1990

INSTAGRAM:
maria_slusnyte

FACEBOOK:
Marija Slušnytė

HISTORIC HAWKS

In his latest book, *Australian Football's 100 Year Club*, author Andrew Clarke celebrates the history of three centenary AFL clubs – Hawthorn, North Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs. In this edited extract, he deep dives into one of the greatest clubs of the modern era and their three-peat of premiership wins...

By ANDREW CLARKE

Hawthorn had an easy win over Collingwood in the first week of the 2012 finals and then had a rest before the scare of its life against Adelaide when Taylor Walker put the Crows within a goal with a minute left on the clock. It held on though and went into the grand final as the favourite, only to be beaten by a more accurate Sydney Swans. Hawthorn held an 11-point lead when ex-Roo David Hale goaled at the 2m 21s mark of the final quarter, but that was the last major for Hawthorn.

In that time, Sydney kicked four goals two to take the game away from Hawthorn who could muster only five behinds, most of which were gettable. The Hawks had thrown that one away and, a bit like Essendon in 1999, it built a certain resolve in the squad. Brian Lake was brought in from the Bulldogs to fill a hole down back, but otherwise it was the same team.

A first-round loss to Geelong in 2013 was its 10th loss to Geelong since the premiership win, and it would lose its 11th later in the season in what was called the Kennett Curse. After the 2008 grand final win, Hawks' President, former state premier Jeff Kennett, said Hawthorn had Geelong's measure in the big games, just as it had for the past 40 years. The only team Hawthorn lost to other than Geelong was Richmond, in its final loss for the home and away series – curiously, in 2008, Richmond was also Hawthorn's final loss – and it finished on top of the ladder for its ninth minor premiership.

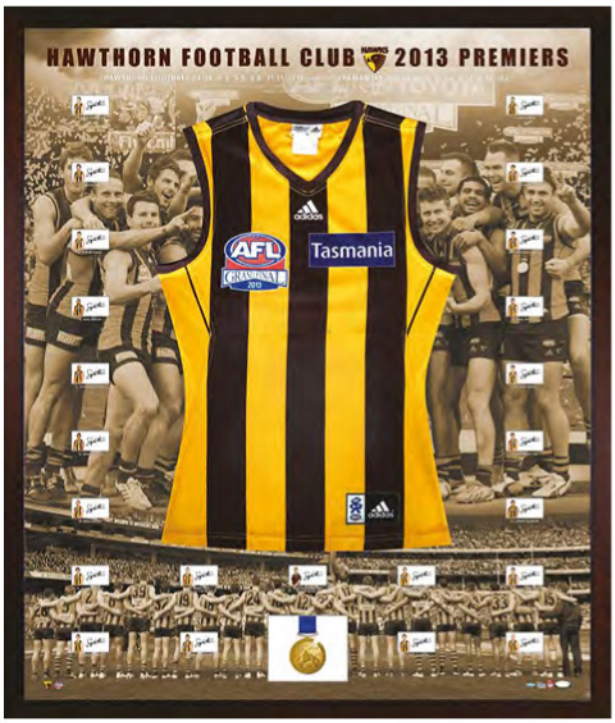
Sydney was an easy win in the qualifying final, and then it was Geelong for a preliminary final, a heart thumping win with a final quarter comeback that my daughter still rates as the greatest and most stressful game she has attended. If Hawthorn had kicked straight the game would have been easy, but the Kennett Curse loomed all night. Fremantle had an easy win in its prelim to head into its first grand final as the favourite... somehow.

The Grand Final played out as another strategic masterclass by Clarkson. In 2008 he sacrificed Franklin's game by forcing him to drag the playmaking Matthew Scarlett out of the backline; this week it was Sam Mitchell. The 2008 premiership captain was one of the best players in the game and he was tagged during the Grand Final, but Clarkson gave him a tag himself, meaning he had two players for most of the game, being released only in the third quarter which saw Fremantle close the 23-point half-time gap to as little as three points.

Three goals in the first half of the final quarter while keeping Freo scoreless set up a memorable premiership. Brian Lake won the Norm Smith Medal. In the days after the game, though, Lance Franklin announced he was leaving the club, which many expected, and was going to join Sydney, which few expected, on a mammoth $10m deal for nine years. With an already banged up body few expected him to go that far. The deal was done the week after losing to Sydney in the 2012 grand final. Hawthorn fans were furious and heartbroken at the same time; they could understand the quieter life at Greater Western Sydney, but Sydney was a rival.

HAWTHORN'S 11TH PREMIERSHIP, 2013

Hawthorn	**2.3.15**	**5.5.35**	**8.8.56**	**11.11.77**
Fremantle	**0.3.3**	**1.6.12**	**6.10.46**	**8.14.62**



Sydney topped the AFL ladder in 2014 from Hawthorn, both winning 17. Sydney cruised through the finals. Hawthorn disposed of Geelong in the first week and then had another heart-stopping preliminary final, its fourth in a row decided by less than a kick. But unlike the Geelong prelim where the Hawks had to come from behind, this one was all about a risk-taking Port coming hard at the end.

Clarko had missed five games during the season with Guillain Barre Syndrome, but the Hawks didn't miss a beat, giving fill-in coach Brendon Bolton five wins from five games. The Hawks were confident, even if the bookies were again looking elsewhere. Ex-Hawk Josh Kennedy kicked the first goal of the game and Franklin the third, but the Hawks surge from there was relentless.

It led by 20 points at quarter time and 42 at the long break, extending the margin to 63 at the end. Franklin was easily the Swans best, but the Hawks fans didn't hold back on him, and neither did the Hawks captain Luke Hodge when he planted a kiss on the cheek of his former teammate.

"We want to be physical, but we never want to go over the edge."

HAWTHORN'S 12TH PREMIERSHIP, 2014

Sydney	**2.3.15**	**5.3.33**	**8.5.53**	**11.8.74**
Hawthorn	**5.5.35**	**11.9.75**	**16.11.107**	**21.11.137**

The Hawks had gone back-to-back with Hodge winning his second Norm Smith Medal. Cyril Rioli had missed most of the season with a hamstring injury, but he made an impact on the game, which was his first since round 15, and a lot of the lead-in chat was whether he would make it into the game at all. He played half a game in Box Hill's – Hawthorn's effective reserves team in the VFL – grand final the previous week and was rested and ready go.

He started the game on the ball, which was a very clear statement, and a handful of minutes later flew over the pack to prove the troublesome hamstring was strong. When he was subbed off for Taylor Duryea, the Hawks faithful, fully aware of the importance of his nine-touch game, cheered him all the way to the bench.

Will Langford, the son of former captain Chris, was also really good on this day, and like Ellis in 2008, he probably played his best game for the club. Nothing went wrong for him apart from only getting one vote in the Norm Smith Medal when he deserved more. Nothing went wrong for Hawthorn either from Roughead's crunching tackle on Dan Hannebery to set up the Hawks' fourth goal to his fifth goal late in the game.

The Hawks were in good shape and there was a sense at Hawthorn that this dynasty was not done, and it was already eyeing 2015 and a chance at immortality. Its age profile was just OK; there were six players in their 30s and none under 21, so they had to keep going. The 2015 season couldn't have started better for Hawthorn fans. After enduring a run of 11 losses to Geelong which it broke in the 2013 preliminary final, all wins against Geelong were sweet, and a big 62-point win on the now traditional Easter Monday game in front of more than 70,000 was a great way to unfurl the club's 12th premiership flag.

Up to round eight though, the Hawks couldn't string either two wins or two losses together. But then it began to click again, and it started closing in on the ladder leaders from the west with Fremantle on top from West Coast. But all its losses were small, the largest being 10 points, and when the Hawks won eight in a row it had a percentage of 170.1 after a 138-point mauling of Carlton in round 17. Yet it sat only third on the ladder.

The 'unsociable Hawks' saved its most unsociable behaviour for North; captain Luke Hodge talked about it in his book and couldn't explain why they disliked North so much, but he said they did. The round five clash at Docklands was a fiery affair from the Hawks. Jordan Lewis clumsily cleaned up Todd Goldstein with a late high hit and copped two weeks – it was his fourth suspension playing against the Roos. Luke Hodge scored a three-week penalty after he climbed from a pack and whacked Andrew Swallow.

At the time, Lewis told Fox Footy none of it was intended. "We want to be physical, but we never want to go over the edge, because if you go over the edge you lose players for weeks. That stuff we didn't intend to do." Regardless of that, they did. It was an interesting sideline to the season, and perhaps fortunately for the Hawks, they didn't have to play North again that season.

Hawthorn was rocked mid-season when Roughead had to take time off after having a melanoma cut from his lip. The time off was for the wound to repair more than anything else, but for a club that still carried the scars of Peter Crimmins' cancer battle four decades prior, it was a big scare. Not that it upset the Hawks, who kept winning games.

A further emotional setback happened later in the season when the 16-year-old son of assistant coach Brett Ratten was killed in a car crash. The rattled Hawks struggled through its Friday night game against Port Adelaide that week, dropping a game it should have won. That loss cost it the top spot on the ladder after it finished the season with two big wins and Freo and West Coast stumbled.

The worst part about finishing third was heading to Perth for its first final against West Coast, whose 'Weagles Web' methodology on the backline was being analysed by the experts as much as it was by the other coaches. Hawthorn lost the qualifying final after a big second quarter by West Coast setup a good win for the home team.

The Hawks bounced back at home with a 74-point smashing of Adelaide at the MCG, but that setup another trip west for a preliminary final against Fremantle. North edged into the finals in eighth place beating Richmond in the first week and then Sydney the next week to make another preliminary final, also in Perth against West Coast.

For a salivating Hawthorn-North Melbourne grand final, both would need to win finals in Perth on the same weekend, the first time Perth had ever hosted two preliminary finals in one weekend. Hawthorn had Fremantle who had finished on top of the ladder, but a big opening quarter settled the nerves and set the base for a win and Hawthorn's chance at a historical three-peat. Cyril Rioli was electric with three goals after missing only one game for the season after being taught a new running technique to stop pinging hamstrings. North also started well and led by 20 points at quarter time but fell away for a 25-point loss as the Eagles plugged away.

West Coast wasn't really that impressive in its preliminary final but went into the grand final as the clear favourite, with two trips to

Perth in three weeks worrying the pundits, and the fascination with the 'Weagles Web' leaving it unbeatable in many eyes. But when you broke down the Web, it wasn't that different to what Hawthorn did in its zone defence, and Clarkson proved on grand final day that he understood it better. Jack Gunston was brilliant with four goals (giving him 10 from three grand finals), but the attacking tone for the game was set by Rioli who had five marks inside the forward 50 and 18 of the most damaging possessions you could ever see in a game. He kicked two himself but set up another four and posed a threat to the Eagles whenever the ball was near. He was a very popular winner of the Norm Smith Medal. The Hawks pulled the Eagles apart on grand final day and powered away to a 50-point lead at three-quarter time, which closed down by only four points at the end for a famous third grand final win in a row.

HAWTHORN'S 13TH PREMIERSHIP, 2015

West Coast	**1.5.11**	**3.8.26**	**5.9.39**	**8.13.61**
Hawthorn	**5.0.30**	**9.3.57**	**14.5.89**	**16.11.107**

In the AFL era, only Brisbane had managed three in a row, and in the VFL, Carlton and Melbourne (twice) had managed it, and only Collingwood had more in a row with four, but two were won under the dubious Argus Challenge system. This Hawthorn side was now guaranteed immortality. ■

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL'S 100 YEAR CLUB *by Andrew Clarke (Gelding Street Press, $34.99rrp) is available at BIG W and all good bookstores*

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THE OG ANTI-CHAFE UNDIES

OUT of OFFICE

Maitan Relaxed Fit Capri Collar Polka Dot Print Shirt in Damson; Bulldog Mid-Length Polka Dot Print Swim Shorts in Damson; Muro Leather Sandal in Brown

We catch up with resort wear king Adam Brown as Brit brand **ORLEBAR BROWN** unveils its Spring 2025 collection...

By REILLY SULLIVAN

Colburn Tailored Fit Classic Collar Long-Sleeve Cotton Chambray Shirt in Wave Blue; Ob-T Linen Tailored Fit Crewneck Long-Sleeve Linen T-Shirt in Latte; Sonoran Relaxed Fit Piscina Print Drawcord Trousers in Agave Green; Muro Leather Sandal in Brown

Maitan Silk Relaxed Fit Capri Collar Catkin Print Silk Shirt in Latte; Alex Relaxed Fit Garment Dye Cotton Trousers in Agave Green

Keeling Classic Fit Tipped Collar Cotton & Silk Knit Polo Shirt in White Sand/Black; Alex Relaxed Fit Garment Dye Cotton Trousers in Latte

For over 15 years, British label Orlebar Brown has been sartorial shorthand for elite resort wear. The brand was created in 2007 by photographer turned designer Adam Brown, who quickly set about elevating poolside fashion for men to new heights. To achieve his vision, Adam created a distinctive visual grammar for his brand that nods to a bygone era of gentlemanly swimwear while remaining thoroughly modern and functional.

Orlebar's piece de resistance remains their classic Bulldog shorts, or as they're better known the original 'shorts you can swim in'. Still, the label has evolved way beyond just swimwear and now takes guys from the cabana to cocktail hour in style. It's no wonder Orlebar Brown pieces have been a staple in all three seasons of HBO's *White Lotus*.

The label, which has been owned by Chanel since 2018, has continued to expand its repertoire with its latest Spring '25 collection, inspired by an eclectic, unexpected mix of art, music and playful gatherings poolside in 1970s Palm Springs. "Our Spring '25 collection is a result of the elegant and unexpected when you mix Jermyn Street tailoring influences with the colour and expressiveness of being poolside in Palm Spring in the 1970s," Adam explains. "The style of Bryan Ferry and the art of David Hockney – a blend of classic British menswear and American eccentricity."

This Anglo-American fusion sees geometric prints lead the way with Piscina in oranges, blues, and greens. These pieces are complemented with refined floral prints in bright colours that evoke the height of summer. And then an elevated selection of polka dots with a print borrowed from classic menswear. Moreover, the season's hero

Maitan Relaxed Fit Two-Tone Capri Collar Linen Shirt in Calypso Orange; Alex Linen Relaxed Fit Linen Trousers in Night Iris; Muro Leather Sandal in Brown

Keeling Classic Fit Crepe Texture Cotton & Silk Shirt in Black/White; Alex Relaxed Fit Garment Dye Cotton Trousers in Latte

colours are an enveloping Agave Green and an elegant Damson colour-balanced with Calypso orange, Eldorado yellow, Caddie green, Khaki and California blue.

Adam and his team have also tapped further into the rapidly expanding men's footwear and bag markets with new additions to Orlebar Brown's range of resort ready accessories. Orlebar Brown will launch brown leather sandals called Muro, a rugged navy and black weekender bag as well as a luxe canvas beach tote.

Stripes are always an Orlebar Brown essential with classic styles and vibrant colourful expressions in new towelling shirts and shorts. Silk and Italian linen shirts in new prints and rich colours are mixed with new, easy fitting trousers. The Spring '25 collection, which is now available via the Orlebar Brown website, is brimming with beach staples perfect for your next tropical getaway or European summer jaunt. ■

Shop Orlebar Brown at *www.orlebarbrown.com*

Maitan Relaxed Fit Capri Collar Catkin Print Linen Shirt in Night Iris; Alex Relaxed Fit Italian Linen Drawcord Zip Fly Trousers In Biscuit

Garret Tailored Fit Unstructured Two-Button Linen & Cotton Blazer in Biscuit; Maitan Relaxed Fit Capri Collar Polka Dot Print Shirt in Damson; Carsyn Slim Fit Tapered Leg Linen & Cotton Trousers in Biscuit; Muro Leather Sandal in Brown

The footbridge at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory

Wilsons Walking WONDERLAND

In his latest book, editor Brent McKean explores 40 of Australia's most spectacular coastal walking tracks. In this edited extract he takes us on a journey along Victoria's oldest national park and into the labyrinth that is Wilsons Promontory...

*"As you sit on the **very edge** of Australia's south you won't be able to help but reflect on life."*

Enjoying the view from the summit of Mount Oberon looking down at Norman beach and Tidal River

THE LIGHTSTATION WALK

By BY ANDREA PURNOMO

Wilsons Promontory is known for its rich landscapes and labyrinth of walking tracks. One of its longest walks, the 46km Wilsons Promontory Lightstation Walk, leads hikers to the most southern tip of mainland Australia. Located in Victoria's oldest national park, Wilsons Promontory was discovered by sea in 1798 on an expedition led by George Bass.

Geographically, the most southern tip of mainland Australia is called South Point; however, due to the spectacular view and heritage of the Wilsons Promontory Lightstation another 4km to the southeast, the lighthouse became a popular and favourable destination visited by many. South Point is not the easiest point to reach, involving a two-day hike and an overnight camp with Sealers Cove Refuge Cove Kersops Peak South East Point no vehicle access. Both South Point and the lighthouse overlook Bass Strait and showcase a spectacular view of infinite ocean.

Wilsons Promontory's Tidal River car park is 222km south of Melbourne. You'll need to collect a permit at the Tidal River Visitor Centre before heading off. To begin the walk, set off towards Oberon Bay via the coastal trek. This moderate walk is a perfect start to the hike and has magnificent views of Victoria's coast. You'll pass varying terrain, and there are tracks that lead across three different beach shores at Norman Bay and Little Oberon Bay Beach.

TRACK FACTS

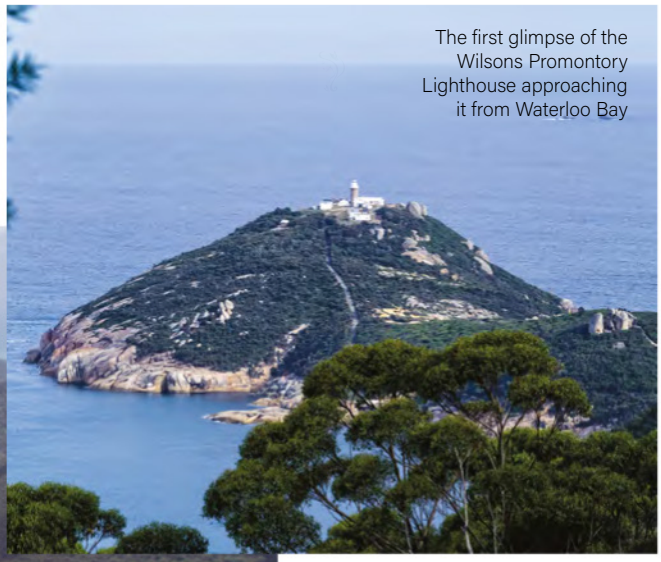
WHERE:
Wilsons Promontory, 222km south-east of Melbourne.

START AND FINISH:
Tidal River car park.

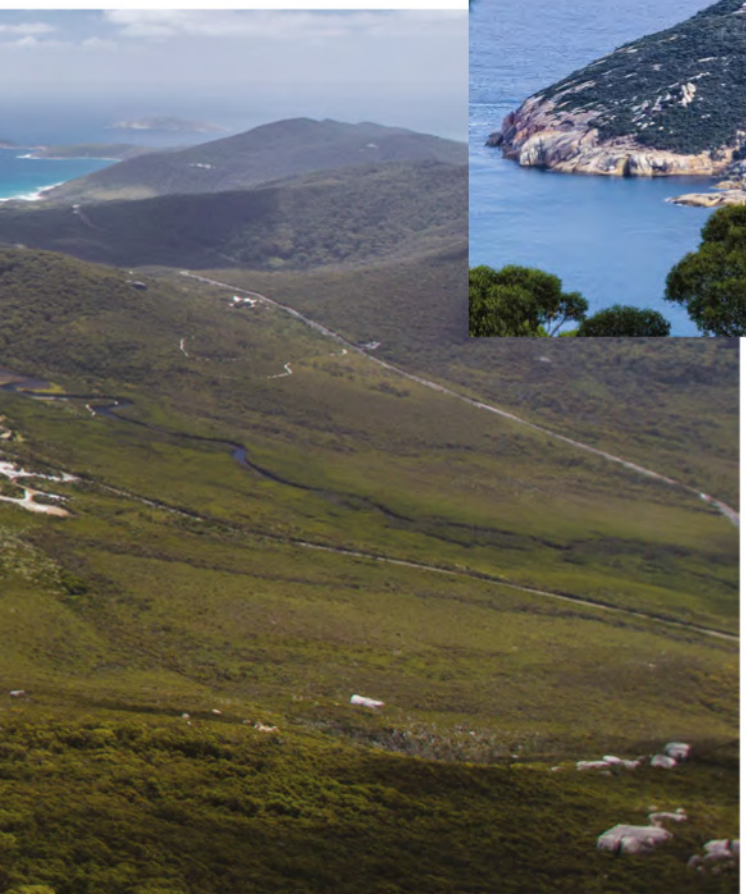
HOW LONG:
46km circuit, three to four days.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:
medium-challenging, with sand walking and steep cliffs.

MORE INFO:
parks.vic.gov.au.



The first glimpse of the Wilsons Promontory Lighthouse approaching it from Waterloo Bay



Each sandy terrain will beckon you to shimmering grains of beige. Among the conversations and Kodak moments of the majestic scenery you'll come across a shaded path that could be a resting place for brown tiger snakes. Wilsons Prom is home to three species of snakes that can be found hiding in shaded areas of the park. Even with the abundance of snakes, not every hiker is fortunate – or unfortunate – enough to spot one. Located within Little Oberon Bay Beach, Oberon Bay Campsite has beachside accommodation, with camping grounds in close proximity to the beach.

You'll trek a moderate 5.6km and pass Halfway Hut Camping Area, then further on you'll reach Roaring Meg Camping Area via the Telegraph Track. The terrain changes to a dark rockbound road that winds through an endless burned-looking valley that is significantly distinctive from the previous colourful landscapes. The track leads to a mountain, trails up and then ultimately takes you down into bushscape.

The surroundings are spectacular, and you may be lucky enough to witness wallabies hopping alongside you. Be entertained by the social Victorian wildlife as you make your way to the Roaring Meg campsite, the most southern unpowered site. It is a large yet cozy, lush site with

its own creek and bridge. On the next day you can leave your gear at the campsite, hike to the lighthouse and back and then trek back. You'll walk over fog-covered tracks, flower-filled footpaths and branch evading byways. The track paves its way up the mountain and has lookout clearings that face an endless ocean. Enjoy the landscape until you finally reach the lighthouse after conquering the long and steeply paved road baptised 'heartbreak hill'.

The lighthouse keeper is usually amenable to taking you around and explaining the history of the lighthouse and his job of maintaining it. Built with local granite by stonemasons in 1859, the 19-metre-tall, seaman-saving beacon towers over the wild waters of Bass Strait. If you book ahead you can stay at one of the three refurbished lighthouse keeper-style cottages and wake up to incredible views of the ocean. It's truly amazing witnessing the sunset over Bass Strait, and especially in the colder months by the fireplace of your cabin. As you sit on the very edge of Australia's south you won't be able to help but reflect on life while overlooking the view of a limitless ocean. It is breathtakingly serene sitting there.

By the way, the lighthouse keeper drives one of the most expensive utes in Australia because to get it to the lighthouse it had to dismantled, flown by helicopter and then reassembled onsite! As the only location with water facilities available it is recommended you refill your water bottle before commencing the hike back to Roaring Meg.

Retrace the walking track back towards the Halfway Hut Camping Area. If you like you can take the 12km Telegraph Track towards Telegraph Saddle car park, which will halve your hiking time. This track cuts straight through the centre of the national park, and on weekends the park provides a free shuttle service from Telegraph Saddle car park to Tidal River.

The elongated track winds through a mountain. The terrain changes to a paved road shaded by overgrown trees as you come across a water oasis that is perfect for a pit stop. Take in as much of the surroundings as you can as your uphill ascent continues for another 15 minutes, until you encounter the clearing of the Telegraph Saddle car park.

Whisky Beach looks as good as a glass of the stuff

THE NATIONAL PARK

Words and photography by BRENT MCKEAN

Wilsons Promontory National Park, the southernmost tip of mainland Australia, offers exceptional coastal and wilderness walking, pristine beaches dominated by granite tors, wildlife aplenty and comfortable, family-friendly campgrounds. After crunching your way up the stringybark forest and sliding between large granite boulders you'll finally reach the top of Vereker Lookout in the northern part of Wilsons Promontory.

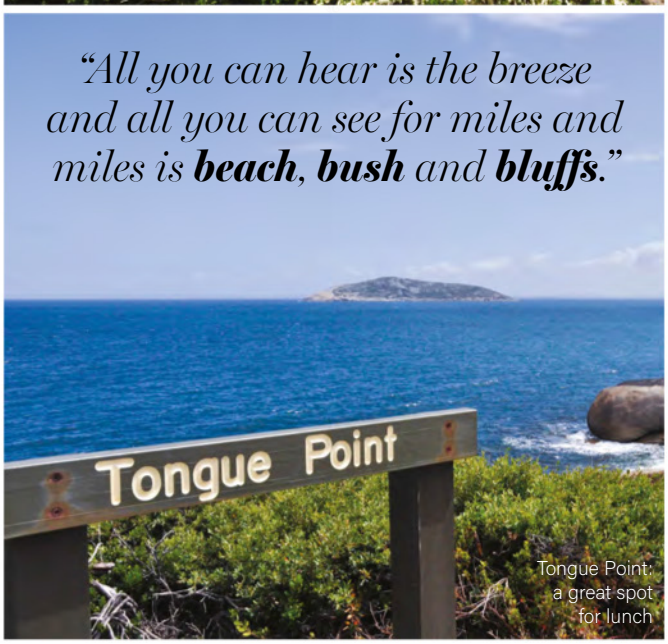
Carefully climb on top of the highest rock you can find, take a deep breath and slowly exhale: there aren't many moments in your life when you're completely alone in the wilderness, where all you can hear is the breeze and all you can see for miles and miles is beach, bush and bluffs.

Wilsons Promontory is Victoria's most-beloved national park, and when you stand on that summit you will see why. It's home to a wide range of wildlife such as kangaroos, wombats, echidnas and emus, and there are plenty of species of birds to spot including colourful and curious rosellas. As for bushwalking, the news just gets better: there are dozens of short, half-day and multi-day trails that allow you to explore the variety of terrain the prom has to offer, from long pristine coastline and exposed headlands to steep granite outlooks and secluded rainforest.

The main visitor hub, the Tidal River Campground, is a 30-minute drive from the park's entrance and features more than 480 camping and caravan sites. The nearest walk to do is out to Squeaky Beach via Tidal Overlook. This easy 90-minute trail offers the best views of the prom's west coast as it climbs the headland between Norman and Leonard bays before descending to Squeaky Beach. The walk can be started from the Tidal River footbridge or the Lilly Pilly Gully car park – and, yes, Squeaky Beach was named after the sound of your feet on the sand!

The commanding view from Mount Bishop

"All you can hear is the breeze and all you can see for miles and miles is ***beach***, ***bush*** *and* ***bluffs****."*



Tongue Point: a great spot for lunch

TRACK FACTS

WHERE:
Wilsons Promontory, 222km south-east of Melbourne.

START AND FINISH:
Tidal River Campground.

HOW LONG:
various.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY:
easy-challenging.

MORE INFO:
parkweb.vic.gov.au; visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland.

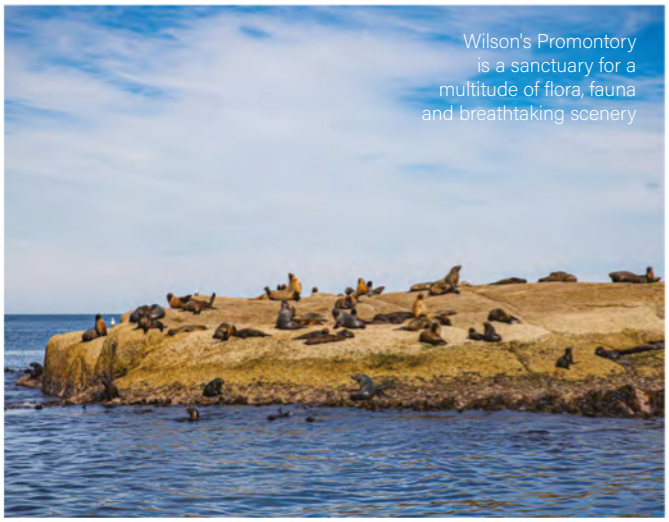
If you're looking for another walk out to a headland with great coastal views, try the moderate-grade Darby Saddle/Tongue Point/Darby River walk of 9.4km. To do this you'll need two cars: one at the start at Darby Saddle and one at Darby River. If you have one car then simply walk from Darby Saddle to Tongue Point, which is 5.6km. Tongue Point is a coastal headland littered with tumbled stacks and boulders of weathered granite. The track from Darby Saddle provides wonderful coastal and forest scenery as it climbs uphill through stringybark and casuarina forest. At 2.1km, a 300-metre sidetrack leads up to Sparkes Lookout and offers commanding views of the pyramid-shaped Rodondo Island to the south and Shallow Inlet to the north.

After the turn-off the main track climbs steeply to Lookout Rocks, a vantage point with wonderful views of Norman Island. From there the track descends steeply through low heathland, then joins the track from Darby River and continues to Tongue Point. Part of the trail is on raised plastic duckboards that offer a reassuring grip and look as though they have more longevity than wooden ones, which need constant maintenance on walks such as Tassie's Overland Track. From Tongue Point the trail heads north to Darby River and offers lush views up Darby and Cotters beaches.

If you fancy getting your heart rate up at the end of the walk, take the 1km sandy track from the car park to Darby Beach. Looking north you'll see a very steep, very high sand dune. To reach the base of the dune you'll have to cross the shallow inlet, and then the only way is up. It takes some effort to push through the soft sand, but once you're at the top it will be worth it.

Looking east you can see the next destination of the Vereker Range snaking its way along the north of the park. After all the effort of reaching the top of the sand dune the only thing left to do is to slide

*"It takes some effort to **push through** the soft sand, but once you're at the top it will be worth it."*



Wilson's Promontory is a sanctuary for a multitude of flora, fauna and breathtaking scenery

barefoot down it laughing uncontrollably like a silly schoolboy. If you spot any snakes along the way don't be alarmed: if you don't hassle them, they won't hassle you. You're less likely to see them if you're walking in a group as they'll feel the vibrations of all of your feet on the track and make themselves scarce. Either way it's not something to be too concerned about.

Wilsons Promontory's lesser-visited northern section offers a fine selection of walks, including the walk to Vereker Lookout. The view looks west to Darby Saddle, where you've just come from, Corner Inlet, Shellback Island and Cotters Beach. Starting at Five Mile car park, the 6km easy to moderate track to Vereker Lookout winds through open banksia woodland with a heathland understorey. For the first 45 minutes the track follows this quiet area before heading up into stringybark forest and the mass of granite boulders that defines this part of the prom. Don't be surprised if you see emus and wallabies curiously staring at you; they're all part of the show.

Many of the prehistoric granite boulders that loom over you wouldn't look out of place at Stonehenge. No doubt the original inhabitants of the Prom, the Brataualung, would have found this place just as blissful. For traditional owner groups Wilsons Promontory is part of a spiritually significant land called Yiruk or Wamoom. Shell middens behind many beaches date back thousands of years and demonstrate a deep connection between Indigenous people and the prom's land and sea. Before the last ice age 65,000 years ago this part of Victoria was connected with Tasmania by way of a land bridge, which is how the original inhabitants of the Apple Isle got there. What's left of the land bridge is now the 52 islands that make up the Furneaux Group.

One of the most popular walks at the prom is the Lilly Pilly Gully Circuit Walk and the side trip up to the exposed granite mass of Mount Bishop. This 7.5km easy walk provides a good example of the prom's interior as the track travels into one of the southernmost locations of warm temperate rainforest. Gnarled coast banksia, wattle trees, hakea and heathland plants all vie for space on this special walk. Give yourself plenty of time to check out your surrounds, and if you're lucky you'll spot a koala hanging in one of the gum trees that offer shade.

The 360-degree view from the top of Mount Bishop is commanding: you really get a feel for the variety of geography that makes up the prom and you'll regret it if you haven't brought along a camera. This is picture postcard stuff. Three days exploring Wilsons Prom will allow you to get a good taste of what it has to offer bushwalkers, but it wouldn't hurt to stay another three days more. ■

GREAT COASTAL WALKS AUSTRALIA **BY BRENT McKEAN (GELDING STREET PRESS $39.99RRP) IS AVAILABLE AT BIG W AND ALL GOOD BOOKSTORES**

The RIDER WHISPERER

The Story of Jeremy Burgess

By JOHN SMAILES

South Australian born Jeremy Burgess is universally regarded as the best crew chief ever in the high-risk, high-speed world of world championship Moto GP racing. Burgess has overseen 14 World Championship victories, been directly accountable for machines and riders that have won 157 MotoGPs and has amassed, by his count, close to 300 podiums. The three mega star riders on his CV, in order, are Wayne Gardner, Mick Doohan and Valentino Rossi.

Burgess, now 72 and retired to his country property at Aldinga in the Adelaide Hills, forms a major part of the latest book Phillip Island: The Inside Story of Australia's Fastest Racetrack, written by motorsport specialist John Smailes. The tome chronicles almost a century of racing on the circuit rated as the best motorcycle racetrack in the world and, in this edited extract, we take a glimpse into the life and times of Burgess, the Aussie motorcycle racing chief mechanic and the man they call the Rider Whisperer.

"If I wanted one guy riding for my life, it would be Mick Doohan," Jeremy Burgess, Honda crew chief throughout Doohan's Grand Prix career, claimed. It's a bold statement. Burgess had been seconded to work with the young Gold Coast tearaway Doohan after guiding Australia's first world motorcycle Champion, Wollongong's Wayne Gardner through his title year. Jeremy had to be forced to work with Wayne. Nothing against the Wollongong Whiz. "When I went to the UK in 1980, I became a mechanic with the works Suzuki team and then with Honda.

I was Number Two on world champion Freddie Spencer's bike when Wayne came on board. I said: "I'm perfectly happy where I am." Then Honda boss Agumi-san got on the phone and said: "If you don't take the job, you are of no further use to Honda." OK. Wayne and Jerry (the abbreviation of his name by which he's known) won the 1987 World Championship, then Mick Doohan joined the team. "Honda wanted me to work with Mick." Burgess had learned by then not to argue.

Jerry had been an A-grade racer in Australia, not a world

PHOTO: CLAIRE MACKINTOSH PA IMAGES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

This page (top): A stamp printed in Australia from the "Australian Heroes of Grand Prix Racing" issue shows Mick Doohan (Repsol Honda) in 2004; ***(right):*** Doohan and Chief Engineer Jeremy Burgess in 1996

beater but better than competent. He knew motorcycle racing as a rider and as a wrench. He preferred wrenching, "although 1986 was the last time I got my hands dirty". Crew chiefs are like COOs (Chief Operating Officers) in corporations. They take input from above, below and tangentially. They initiate, integrate, delegate, manage, motivate and where necessary manipulate. And while the buck should stop with the big boss, it usually comes to a screeching halt with them.

"You had to pump Wayne up, "he confided. "He was most insecure. When he found out Honda had hired his arch-rival Eddie Lawson to be his and Mick's third-man teammate, it set him off. Mick on the other hand was a man in a hurry. "I don't care who gets a Honda as long as I have one," he said.

For more than a decade the Mick and Jerry show dominated 500c.c. Grand Prix racing. They lived through Doohan's massive crashes, the worst in 1992 when he almost lost his leg and his life in an Assen hospital. When he partially recovered, Mick's injured foot couldn't use the brake, so they improvised, rigging up a thumb operated rear brake lever. "To see him at Sao Paolo when he made his comeback, to see how much weight he'd lost, how his leg looked. Jerry still empathises. "You can share the disappointment, but you can't feel the pain."

They won five senior world titles together. As far as Jerry was concerned he was with Mick for life. "He's a man of steel – incredible," Jerry told me, still in awe. But "It's a risk industry. You can fall down at any time." He was with Mick, the hardest and most determined racer of his time, when he won his fifth consecutive 500c.c. World

"If I wanted one guy riding for my life, it would be Mick Doohan."

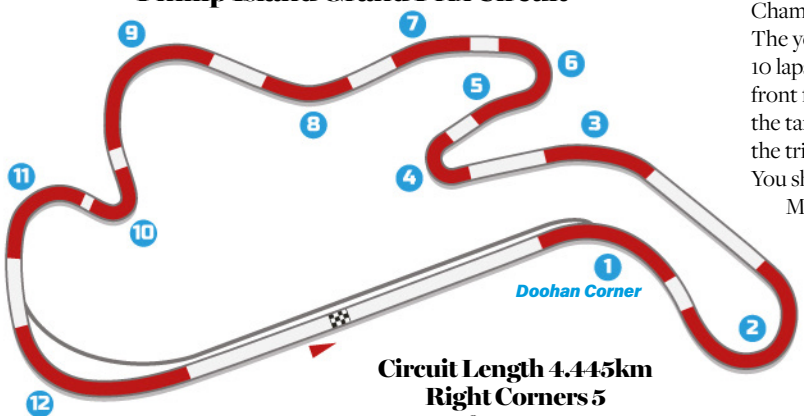
Championship in 1988 at Phillip Island. It was a race for the ages. The year before he'd crashed, leading by seven seconds with only 10 laps to go. "I flicked it into Turn One, hit some bumps and the front folded. I thought I could get it back, so I dug my knee into the tarmac to take the weight off the front tyre. That usually does the trick, but it didn't this time. Instead, the slide went on forever. You should see the hole in my leathers", he told the media.

Mighty Mick had used his knee to try to stay upright at something north of 280km/h.

In March 1999 Doohan crashed for the last time. It was lap five of practice for the Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez amongst the sherry-vines of Andalusia. He broke his wrist, collarbone and suffered severe muscle damage to his back. The main challenge was another break to the leg he almost lost in '92.

At the 1999 Australian Grand Prix, Phillip Island honoured him and named Turn One for him. Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett

Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit



Circuit Length 4.445km
Right Corners 5
Left Corners 7

applauded him as he limped, obviously painfully, to his NSR Honda. Organisers had arranged for him to do some parade laps for the crowd. Then he opened the throttles and put down a time that would have qualified midfield for the GP. "I've still got the feel for it," he grinned when he returned to the pits. His mind was ready, but his body was not. He made his retirement announcement at a Gold Coast media conference in mid-December.

And then, along came Valentino Rossi – the GOAT, greatest of all time. "I was sitting in the Honda pit at Phillip Island at 7pm, just me alone," Jeremy Burgess said. "Valentino walked in, went right up and sat on Mick's bike, didn't ask for permission. He didn't say much, just got to know it."

In 2000 Rossi, reigning 250c.c. World Champion, was graduating to the 500c.c. division. The mercurial Italian, a talent with a persona that transcended the sport, was in demand. He agreed to join Honda on the proviso they would assign Burgess as crew chief. Had they not, had Doohan kept racing and claimed Burgess, it could have been a deal breaker.

"They initiate, integrate, delegate, manage, motivate and where necessary manipulate."

"He was the guy making the big step, leaving the comfort of an Italian team (Aprilia) with Italian mechanics to join a Japanese team with Australian mechanics," Jerry smiled.

Rossi, Vale to his legions of fans, led a resurgence of excitement in World Motorcycle Grand Prix racing. In 2002 the senior championship regrouped, discarded its screaming two stroke engines and replaced them with howling four strokes. Promoters saw Rossi as the standard bearer for the revival.

With Burgess, Rossi won the last championship of the 500c.c. two stroke era (2001) and the first of the new 990.c.c. four stroke age (2002). "Someone had to do it," Burgess quipped. "It might as well be us." Valentino was a huge talent and a natural showman. Burgess was in a unique position to compare him to Doohan. "While Mick would race to win, and if that was 20 seconds ahead of the next rider so be it, Valentino would race to entertain," Jerry recalled. "If he knew he had their measure, he'd keep the gap small and at the press conference afterwards he'd talk about how tight it was."

Italian rider Valentino Rossi (R) and Jeremy Burgess at the 2011 Red Bull MotoGP in Indianapolis, USA

Fiat Yamaha Team rider Rossi during the 2010 pre-season test at Sepang circuit in Sepang, Malaysia

After enjoying Doohan's take-no-prisoners determination and long gap victories, Burgess had to learn to live with the new anxiety. Rossi, according to Burgess, had the ability to create magic. "His fan connection was genuine," Jerry said. "When he celebrated by dressing up as Robin Hood in the UK or pretending to have a toilet stop in Spain, he was for real. Others tried to copy him – like Jorge Lorenzo planting his Lorenzo's Land flag after a win, but you could see it was contrived."

"Jerry was like my Dad in MotoGP," Rossi told me. When Vale and Jerry got together in 2000 there was a bit of sorting out. Rossi wanted a place to sit in the pit garage. "Mick never sat down," Jerry said, affronted. "'If you want to sit down, sit on your bike,'" I told him. "He'd come into the pits in practice, and he'd take off his helmet. 'Don't do that', I told him. 'I want you ready to go back out.' Rossi agreed to keep his helmet on, but he still wanted a chair. "I sent one of the boys out to buy him one. He liked yellow, so we got it in that colour."

Rossi's English, then, was limited. "The language of this garage is English," Jerry decreed. Even his Japanese bosses knew that. "I could see right from the start he was good," Jerry continued. "The ability of his brain to process information was extraordinary. I liken him to Michael Schumacher."

Burgess and Rossi agree. His best ever race was at Phillip Island in 2003. "He accidently passed another rider under yellow flags (forbidden) and he was given a 10-second penalty," Jerry said. "He broke the lap record four times in four laps, made up the lost ground and won by 10 seconds. He told me it's the only time he'd concentrated 100 percent for the entire race distance. I didn't breathe for the same time." For Rossi it was special because: "I push really, really hard and win. I enjoy it very much."

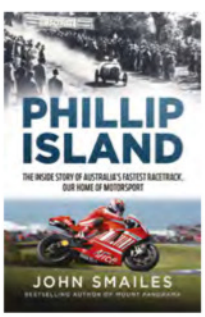
The Rossi-Burgess combination won five senior World Championships in succession (of their total seven) and claimed five Grand Prix victories at Phillip Island. The first three were on Honda, but the Honda relationship was nearing the end of the line. "Honda believed our bikes were so good anyone could win on them," Jerry said. "Just the same they gave me the brief to keep him." Vale told Jerry it wasn't about the bikes; it wasn't about the money. It was more than that. It was about respect. He was leaving.

"If it makes any difference, I'll come with you," Jerry told his young champion. "I knew I was burning my bridges. "First time out on Yamaha, they won the championship. Then they won another three. Jeremy Burgess and Valentino Rossi dissolved their relationship at the end of the 2013 season. "I was 60 and I didn't believe Vale could win another championship," Jeremy said, leaning back in his chair overlooking the rolling landscape of the Adelaide Hills.

The pair had moved to Ducati then quit after a winless 2012 season and moved back to Yamaha, but the results hadn't come, at least not to their satisfaction. One GP win and a championship fourth was below their expectation.

"I'd signed a one-year contract for 2014, but he said if we're going to change at the end of next year we may as well change now." Burgess was half right. Rossi didn't win another title but he amassed another eight Grand Prix victories and won the Australian Grand Prix in 2014, his sixth, equalling Casey Stoner.

Rossi retired in 2021. Even now his merchandise is still the top selling brand at Phillip Island. Burgess attends each year as an honoured guest. ■



This is an edited extract from* PHILLIP ISLAND *by John Smailes (Allen & Unwin, $36.99rrp), available at all good bookstores

VAN...DAMN!

Time to get acquainted with American beauty and international model, **VAN PHAN**...

Photography by JOSH HARDENBROOK

Sexy photo shoot, Van.
When do you feel sexy?
I learned to feel comfortable in my own skin. Growing up in an area where not a lot of people looked like me, was difficult. I never felt like I fit in. When I took the leap to move to New York, I quickly realised my hometown was too small for me to grow in. Sometimes you have to put yourself in uncomfortable situations in order to grow. NYC has a place for everyone, and I immediately felt very comfortable being independent in the big city. I wouldn't be where I am today, especially in the modelling industry.

Tell us a bit more about yourself.
I was born in Vietnam and came to America at the age of four. I had goals in becoming the first doctor in the family, but modelling was always my passion as a child, runway especially – the adrenaline rush is unmatched. After graduating college, I followed my calling to NYC to pursue modelling and found myself in the middle of the fashion capital navigating my way through the industry. Before I knew it, my modelling career took off – internationally, too! My advice is to take every opportunity you get because you never know how it can impact your life.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
I'm actually a Neuroscience major and got into medical school. My degree will always be there and is a great fall-back option.

What is your best asset?
I'm very grateful to have been blessed with great Asian skin. Growing up, I never had any skin problems. Resilience is another characteristic to describe me being thrown into NYC right after college to pursue modelling. I had to find my own path and adapt to the industry as it's constantly changing.

Got a hidden talent?
I'm a creative cook. I take family Vietnamese recipes and add my own twist. I can also visualise how to cook a dish by tasting it.

What have you learned about men over the years?
The best way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Cooking!

"Take every opportunity you get because you never know how it can impact your life."

"Sometimes you have to put yourself in **uncomfortable** situations in order to **grow**."

What's one thing men should always know about women?
What her love language is.

What do you look for in a man?
Masculinity – protecting and providing for me all while being my peace. Someone I can run home to, finding comfort in their arms no matter the situation.

What's the weirdest thing someone has sent you via social media?
I've gotten enquiries if someone can fly me out to record some coloured slime being poured on me. What an odd request.

What is your motto in life?
"It's okay, you'll never see that stranger again. Just keep moving."

Where would you like to be in five years?
I see myself on a billboard in Soho, NYC representing a major brand like Calvin Klein.

What's next for you? Any exciting projects on the horizon you can share with us?
Yes! I'm super excited to be a part of Ibiza Swim Week this year, in June. I'm taking my runway experience international this year. ■

STATUS UPDATE

NAME:
Van Phan

BORN:
March 6

HOMETOWN:
Shelby Township, Michigan USA

FIVE-WORD SELF DESCRIPTION:
"Outgoing, fashion-forward, well-travelled, loving, ambitious.

SNAPCHAT:
vanny2000

TIKTOK:
@van.vp

INSTAGRAM:
@van_phann

Jennifer Allen

The MAXIM Australia/NZ *Women of the World Official Calendar* is the perfect gift for you and your mates. Featuring gorgeous international models, this month we give you the alluring Jennifer...

STATUS UPDATE

Born:
February 12

Hometown:
Scottsdale,
Arizona USA

Lives:
San Diego,
California USA

Self description:
"Bubbly, witty,
empathetic,
adventurous, and
a bit of an introvert."

Life motto:
"C'est la vie!"

Instagram:
@jen02558

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
ROCKY BATCHELOR

Under The Influencer

Tech entrepreneur **DR RAVI SINGH** discusses digital disruption, the future of influencer marketing and what's up with #University...

Dr Ravi Singh knows a thing or two about digital innovation. A Chicago native, Singh founded the ground-breaking marketing firm ElectionMall in the US back in 2000 at the dawn of the digital age. The company specialises in building an online presence for political parties and has been involved in countless successful elections on both sides of the aisle, including in Australia.

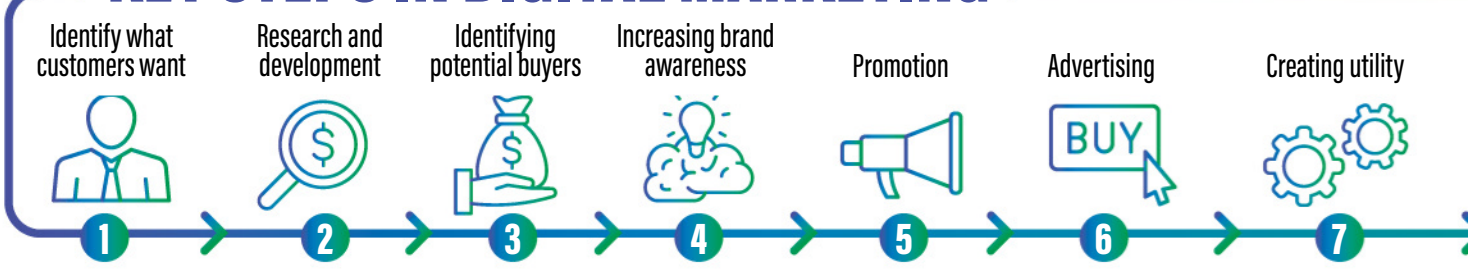
"I had the great privilege of coming to Australia and participating in one of the elections, where I helped a political party create influence as part of their campaign group," he says while artfully declining to name which party utilised his services. It is public knowledge that the so-called "guru" of digital marketing has worked for the likes of the Fine Gael party in Ireland, Brazilian Presidential hopeful Jose Serra and Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos, among others.

Part of Singh's savvy was being an early adopter of online political ads on search engines like Google, which is now standard practice whether you're running for city council or president of the free world.

Before long, the likes of Microsoft sat up and granted Singh sponsorship funds to co-create the first cloud based political software, Campaign Cloud. Now, Singh has decided to take his knack for streamlining e-commerce, marketing, social media and online influence with the new higher learning institution #University, a world-first online school for influencers.

"We started #University to address a significant pain point in the industry," he explains. "Many young people learn about social media and influencer marketing

KEY STEPS IN DIGITAL MARKETING



"We aim to incorporate best practices from around the world, recognising that culture, currency, customs and country are crucial factors."

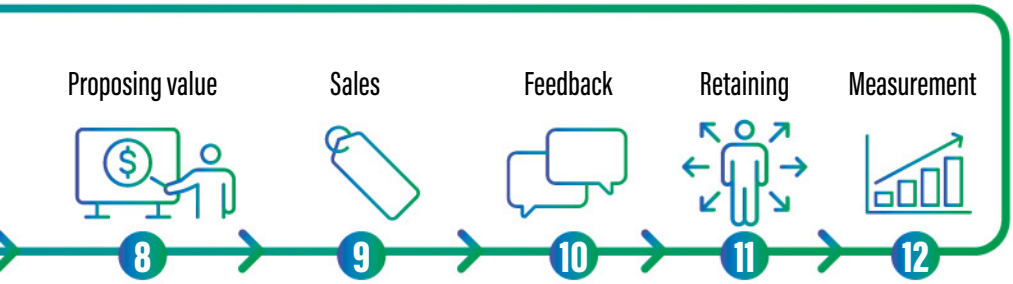
TO CELEBRATE ITS LAUNCH, #UNIVERSITY IS AWARDING 50 FULL SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALLING $500,000 TO PROMISING INFLUENCERS ACROSS THE STANDARDS

through trial and error, often by observing others. While this approach can lead to success, it lacks a structured and disciplined format to access comprehensive and accurate information. As solo entrepreneurs, they must handle everything themselves, from contracts and invoicing to negotiations, content creation and staying updated with social media trends, and they need to master various skills to succeed."

The genesis of #University came after Singh, who holds a PhD in social media and technology from Ashford University, noticed no major universities were offering comprehensive courses dedicated to online influencing. The program also utilises a region-specific approach, so students are using strategies tailored to them whether in Sydney or Singapore. "Influence varies greatly across regions – being an influencer in Indonesia is different from being one in India, Spain, or the United States," he explains. "We aim to incorporate best practices from around the world, recognising that culture, currency, customs and country are crucial factors that affect influencer marketing."

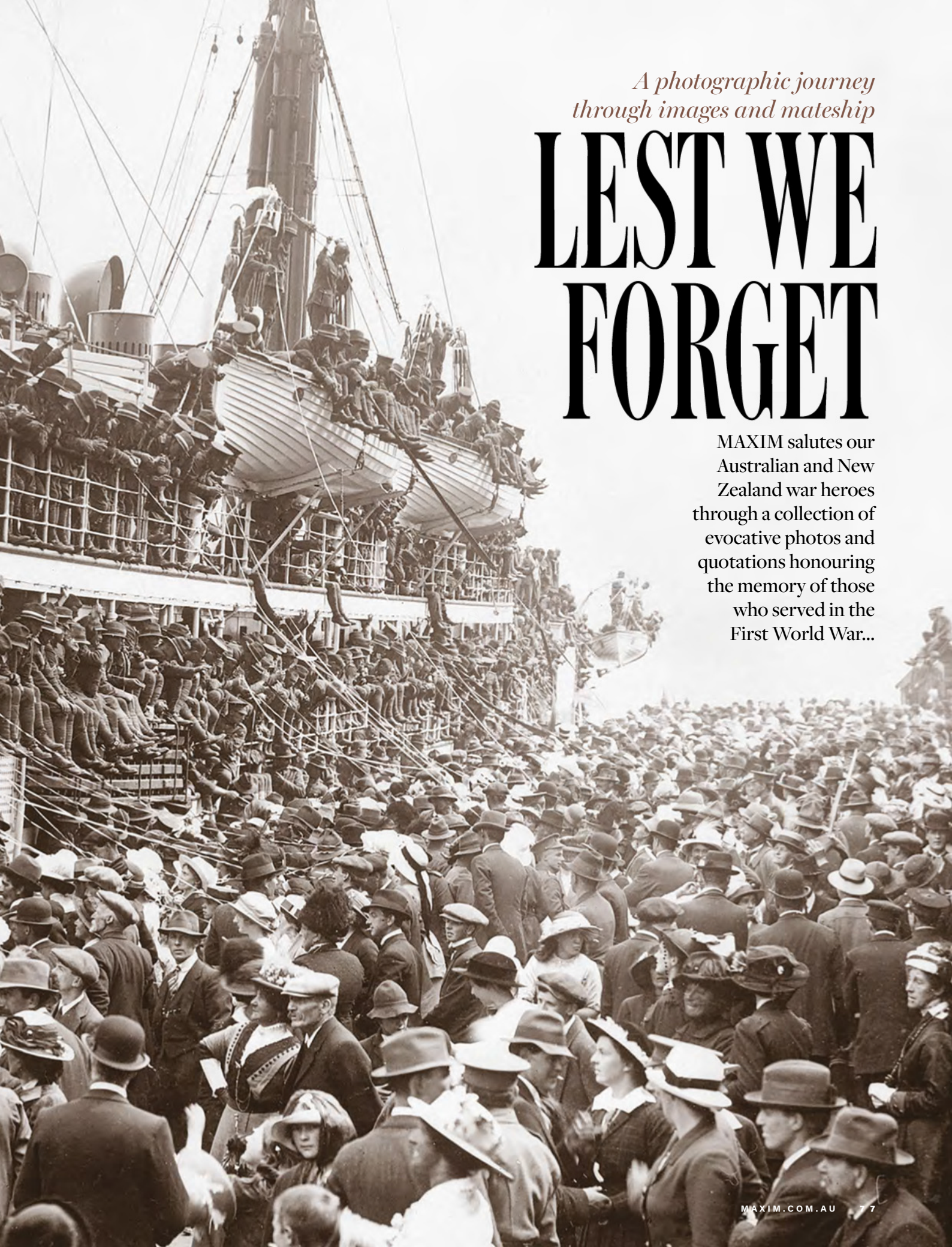
To celebrate its launch, #University is awarding 50 full scholarships – totalling $500,000 – to promising influencers across the standards. This initiative underscores Singh's commitment to elevating influencer marketing standards and empowering individuals with the tools to turn their passion into a career. While social media platforms continue to rise and fall, Singh believes the principles of influencer marketing will remain integral in the coming decades.

"Influencer marketing is here to stay, and it is essential for us to build strong ties, relationships and collaborations," Similar to the early days of e-commerce, influencer marketing is in its infancy and has tremendous growth potential," he adds. "At #University, we are committed to providing the education and support needed to help aspiring influencers succeed ethically and effectively." ■



For more info on #University go to
www.hashtaginfluencer.university

A heavily laden troopship leaves for war half a world away



A photographic journey through images and mateship

LEST WE FORGET

MAXIM salutes our Australian and New Zealand war heroes through a collection of evocative photos and quotations honouring the memory of those who served in the First World War...

From top: Maori and Australian soldiers man-haul a water tank uphill from Anzac Cove, Gallipoli; 1917 — across a morass of flooded shell holes, Australian troopswalk on duckboards near Passchendaele, Belgium; "Anzac Cove. A shell torn strip of beach". May 1915 — a view of Anzac Cove soon after the landing. A six-inch 30cwt howitzer has been unloaded.

"None but a coward dares to boast that he has never known fear."

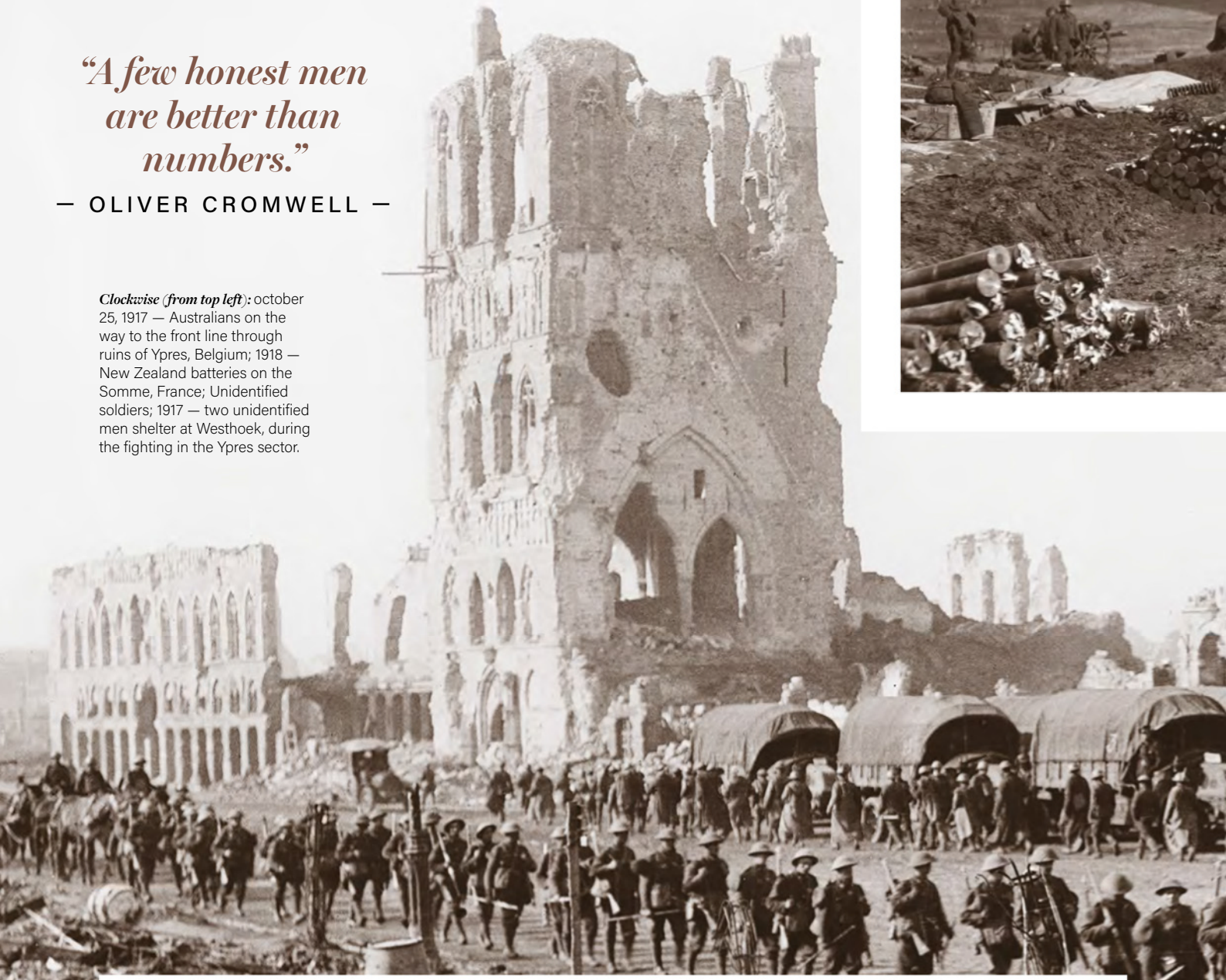
— FERDINAND FOCH —

January 10, 1915 — the original officers and men of the 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, AIF – over 685 soldiers – on the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) near Mena camp.

"A few honest men are better than numbers."

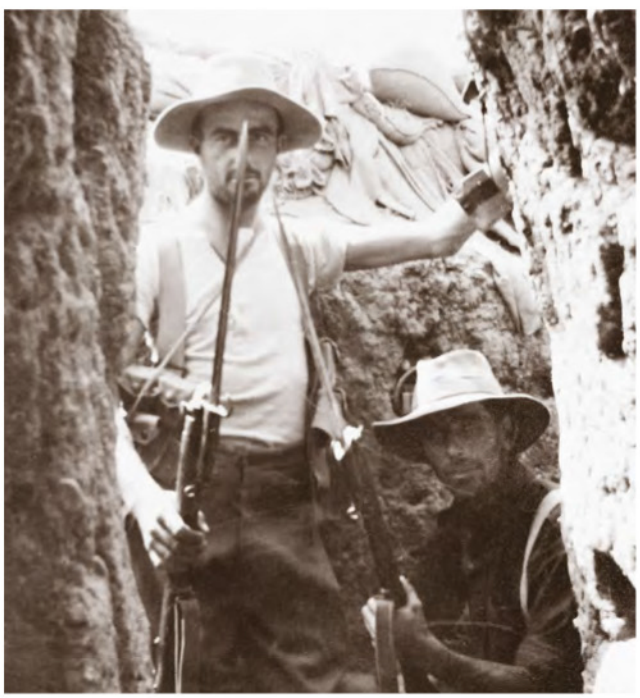
— OLIVER CROMWELL —

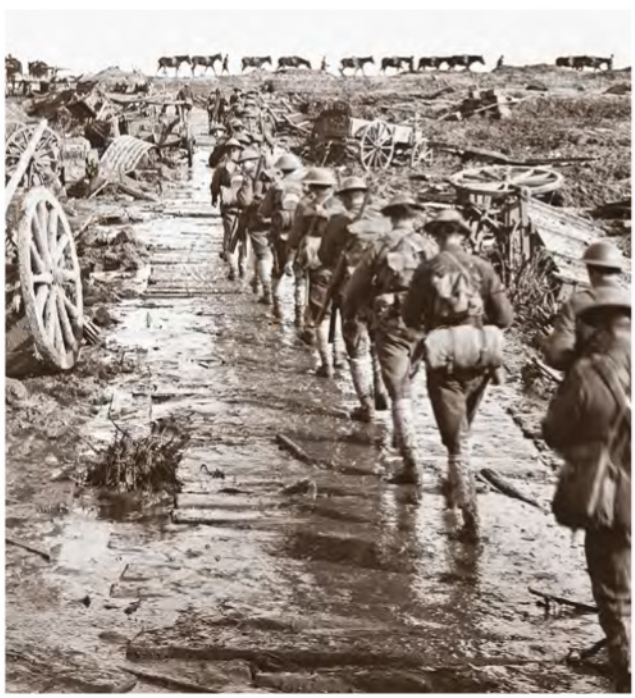
Clockwise (from top left): october 25, 1917 — Australians on the way to the front line through ruins of Ypres, Belgium; 1918 — New Zealand batteries on the Somme, France; Unidentified soldiers; 1917 — two unidentified men shelter at Westhoek, during the fighting in the Ypres sector.



"We learn from history that we learn nothing from history."

— GEORGE BERNARDSHAW —





Clockwise (from top): July 8, 1917 — the 1st Australian Division gathered in a muddy cemetery at the unveiling of the memorial to fallen members; November 5, 1917 — moving up to the front line, men and pack mules rounding Idiot Corner, on Westhoek Ridge, Belgium. Following the duckboard and corduroy track meant being seen by the enemy silhouetted against the skyline, but no other path through the mud was possible. Many transports and guns were destroyed by constant shellfire, while others simply sunk in the mud; 1915 — "The Abbatoirs or Slaughter House – 12 to 15 yards from Turk trenches". Unidentified Australian soldiers with rifles and fixed bayonets.

This extract is taken from* ANZAC MEMORIES *($16.99, New Holland Publishers), available from all good book retailers or online at newhollandpublishers.com

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